

# **Hepatitis B in El Paso County, Colorado 2008-2013 Epidemiological Profile Report**

## **Cases of Acute and Chronic Hepatitis B in El Paso County**

**Note: This report is published by the Viral Hepatitis Program (VHP), Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Denver Colorado. Data are presented for acute and chronic hepatitis B cases reported to CDPHE from 2008-2013**



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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

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El Paso County is located in east central Colorado with an estimated population of 655,044 in 2013.<sup>1</sup> A large majority of the population in El Paso County is under 18 years of age (25.3%), followed by persons 65 years and over (11.1%), and then persons under 5 years (7.0%).<sup>2</sup> The median household income between 2009-2013 was \$57,125.<sup>2</sup> In 2010, there were 235,959 households in El Paso County with the majority being family households (68.0%) and of these households 33.3% are with own children under 18 years, nonfamily households make up 32.0%, with 12.0% males living alone and 14.0% females living alone.<sup>3</sup> According to the United States Census, the largest ethnic group in the county are White 84.0%, followed by Hispanic or Latino 15.9%, Black or African American 6.8%, two or more races 4.6%, Asian 2.9%, American Indian and Alaska Native 1.3%, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 0.4%.<sup>2</sup> The data in this report is current as of December 31, 2014. The state database is constantly being updated as lab reports are received and new cases are confirmed or deleted.

### Hepatitis B in El Paso County

Table 1: Reported Hepatitis B Cases by Case Status, Sex, Age, and Race: El Paso County, Colorado, 2013

	Acute HBV Cases		Chronic HBV Cases †		All HBV Cases	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Total	Rate of Reported Cases/ 100,000 ‡
Total (State)	26	100%	511	100%	537	10.2
Total (El Paso)	5	19.2%	53	10.4%	58	8.8
<b>Case Status</b>						
Confirmed	4	80.0%	14	26.4%	18	2.7
Probable	0	0.0%	39	73.6%	39	5.9
Suspect	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.2
<b>Gender</b>						
Female	3	60.0%	28	52.8%	31	4.7
Male	2	40.0%	25	47.2%	27	4.1
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
0-9	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0
10-19	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0
20-29	0	0.0%	13	24.5%	13	2.0
30-39	2	40.0%	13	24.5%	15	2.3
40-49	0	0.0%	10	18.9%	10	1.5
50-59	1	20.0%	9	17.0%	10	1.5
60+	2	40.0%	8	15.1%	10	1.5

Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	1	20.0%	4	7.5%	5	0.8
White non-Hispanic	2	40.0%	11	20.8%	13	2.0
Black non-Hispanic	0	0.0%	1	1.9%	1	0.2
American Indian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	18	34.0%	18	2.7
Multiple	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0
Other/Missing/Unknown	2	40.0%	19	35.8%	21	3.2

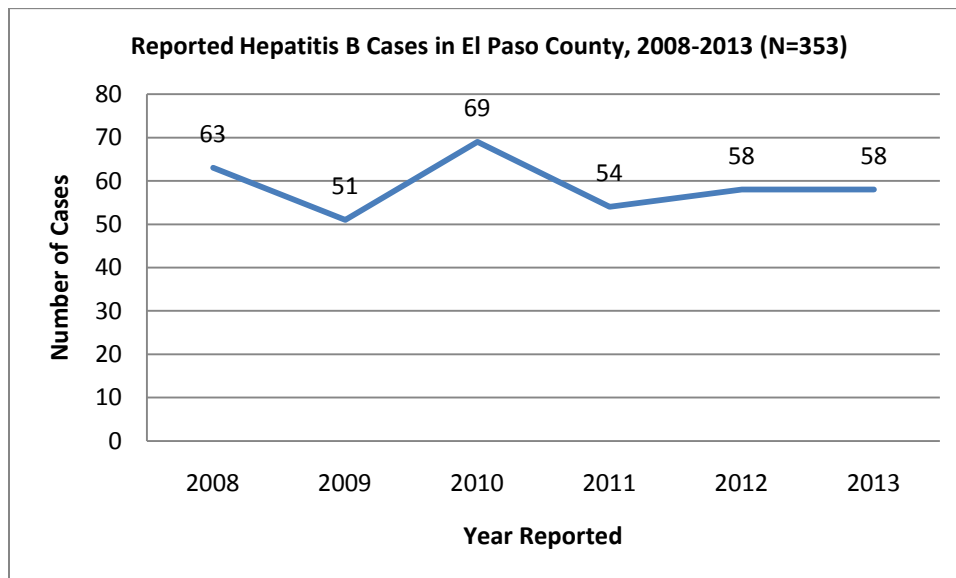
Data is current as of 12/31/2014.

Table 2: Reported Hepatitis B Cases by Case Status, Sex, Age, and Race: El Paso County, Colorado, 2008-2013

	Acute HBV Cases		Chronic HBV Cases †		All HBV Cases	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Total	Rate of Reported Cases/ 100,000 ‡
Total (State)	201	100%	3178	100%	3379	11.1
Total (El Paso)	24	11.9%	329	10.4%	353	9.4
<b>Case Status</b>						
Confirmed	19	79.2%	139	42.2%	158	4.2
Probable	4	16.7%	189	57.4%	193	5.1
Suspect	1	4.2%	1	0.3%	2	0.1
<b>Gender</b>						
Female	13	54.2%	176	53.5%	189	5.0
Male	11	45.8%	153	46.5%	164	4.3
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0
<b>Age (years)</b>						
0-9	1	4.2%	15	4.6%	16	0.4
10-19	0	0.0%	14	4.3%	14	0.4
20-29	0	0.0%	69	21.0%	69	1.8
30-39	10	41.7%	69	21.0%	79	2.1
40-49	2	8.3%	62	18.8%	64	1.7
50-59	4	16.7%	52	15.8%	56	1.5
60+	7	29.2%	48	14.6%	55	1.5

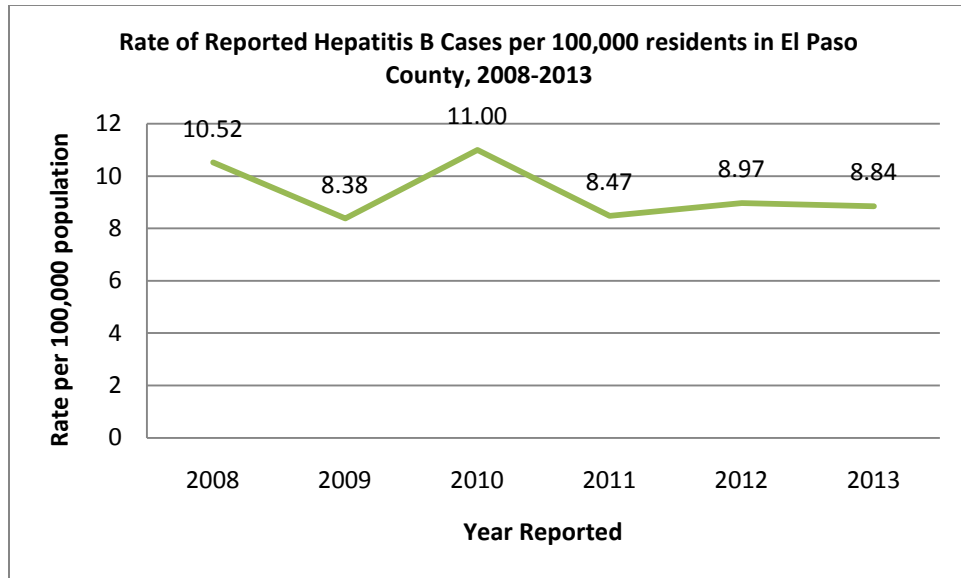
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	2	8.3%	13	4.0%	15	0.4
White non-Hispanic	13	54.2%	52	15.8%	65	1.7
Black non-Hispanic	1	4.2%	15	4.6%	16	0.4
American Indian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	4.2%	113	34.3%	114	3.0
Multiple	1	4.2%	2	0.6%	3	0.1
Other/Missing/Unknown	6	25.0%	134	40.7%	140	3.7

Data is current as of 12/31/2014.



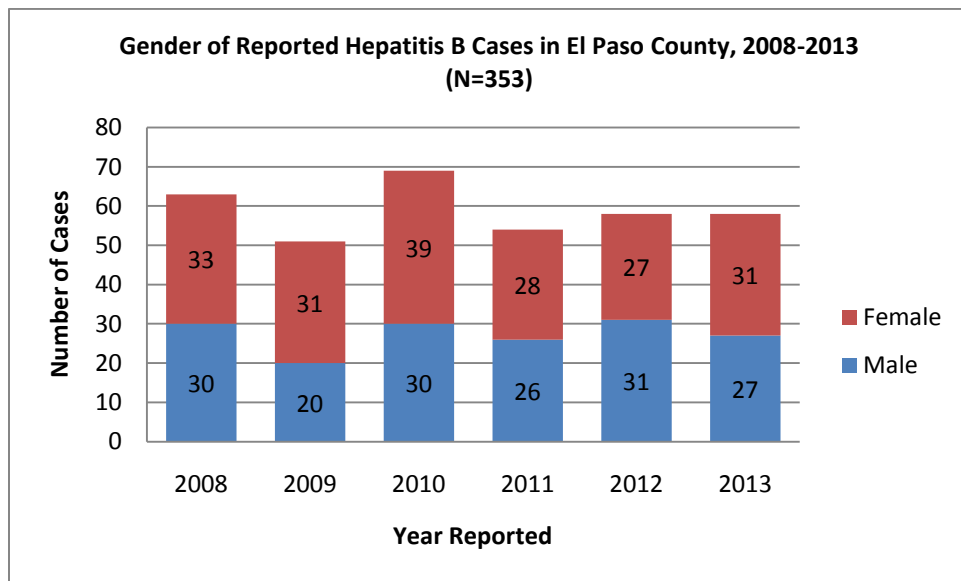
Data is current as of 12/31/2014.

Figure 1. The number of reported Hepatitis B cases in El Paso County, 2008-2013



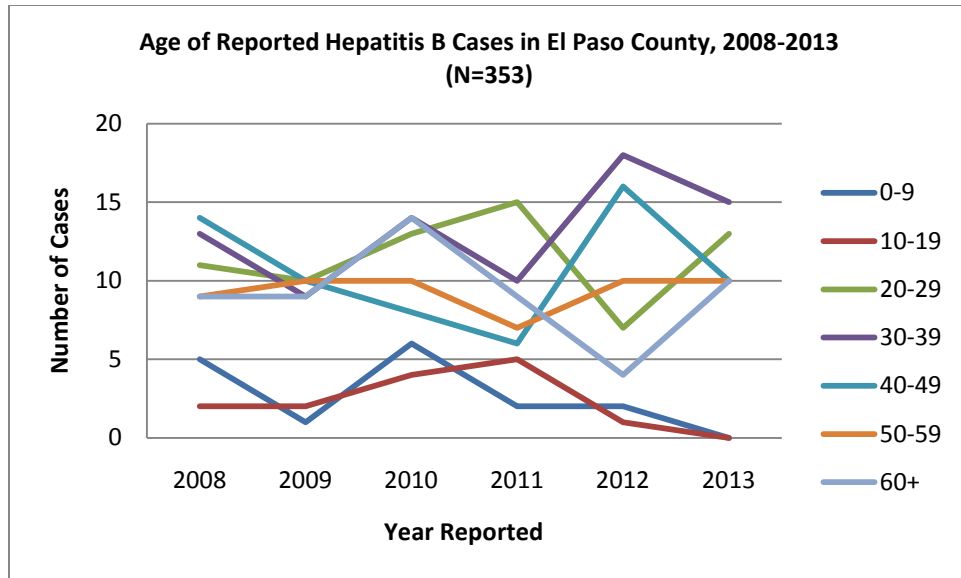
*Data is current as of 12/31/2014.*

Figure 2. The rate of Hepatitis B cases in El Paso County, 2008-2013



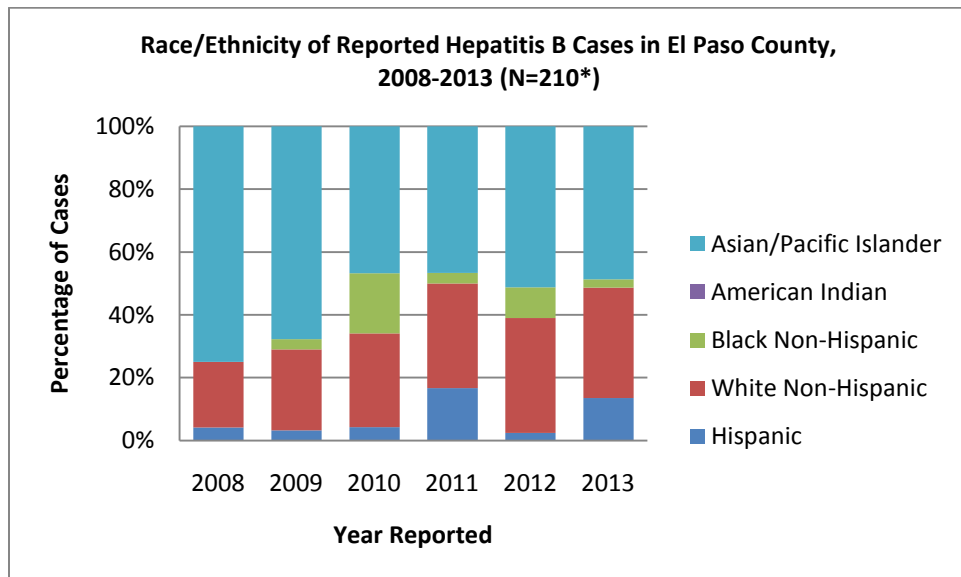
*Data is current as of 12/31/2014.*

Figure 3. The gender of reported Hepatitis B cases in El Paso County, 2008-2013



*Data is current as of 12/31/2014.*

Figure 4. The age of reported Hepatitis B cases in El Paso County, 2008-2013



*Data is current as of 12/31/2014.*

Figure 5. The race/ethnicity of reported Hepatitis B cases in El Paso County, 2008-2013

Table 3: Reported Hepatitis B Cases by Risk Factor, and Percentage of Cases Reporting the Risk Factor: El Paso County, Colorado, 2013†

	Acute HBV Cases		Chronic HBV Cases †		All HBV Cases
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Total
Total	5		53		58
IVDU					
Yes	0	0.0%	3	5.7%	3
No	4	80.0%	6	11.3%	10
Unknown	0	0.0%	2	3.8%	2
Missing	1	20.0%	42	79.2%	43
Household Contact					
Yes	0	0.0%	1	1.9%	1
No	2	40.0%	2	3.8%	4
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Missing	3	60.0%	50	94.3%	53
Sex Contact					
Yes	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
No	2	40.0%	3	5.7%	5
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Missing	3	60.0%	50	94.3%	53
Baby Boomer					
Yes	2	40.0%	13	24.5%	15
No	3	60.0%	40	75.5%	43
Born in Endemic Area					
Yes	1	20.0%	16	30.2%	17
No	2	40.0%	6	11.3%	8
Unknown	0	0.0%	11	20.8%	11
Missing	2	40.0%	20	37.7%	22
MSM					
Yes	1	20.0%	5	9.4%	6
No	2	40.0%	0	0.0%	2
Unknown	0	0.0%	2	3.8%	2
Missing	2	40.0%	46	86.8%	48

Data is current as of 12/31/2014.

†Risk factor categories are not mutually exclusive.

Table 4: Reported Hepatitis B Cases by Risk Factor, and Percentage of Cases Reporting the Risk Factor: El Paso County, Colorado, 2008 - 2013†

	Acute HBV Cases		Chronic HBV Cases †		All HBV Cases
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Total
Total	24		329		353
IVDU					
Yes	1	4.2%	9	2.7%	10
No	15	62.5%	51	15.5%	66
Unknown	1	4.2%	137	41.6%	138
Missing	7	29.2%	132	40.1%	139
Household Contact					
Yes	0	0.0%	6	1.8%	6
No	8	33.3 %	85	25.8%	91
Unknown	2	8.3%	76	23.1%	78
Missing	14	58.3%	162	49.2%	176
Sex Contact					
Yes	1	4.2%	0	0.0%	1
No	7	29.2 %	91	27.7%	98
Unknown	2	8.3%	76	23.1%	78
Missing	14	58.3%	162	49.2%	176
Baby Boomer					
Yes	5	20.8%	101	30.7%	106
No	19	79.2%	228	69.3%	247
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Born in Endemic Area					
Yes	2	8.3%	93	28.3%	95
No	13	54.2%	30	9.1%	43
Unknown	3	12.5%	97	29.5%	100
Missing	6	25.0%	109	33.1%	115
MSM					
Yes	4	16.7%	36	10.9%	40
No	6	25.0%	17	5.2%	23
Unknown	1	4.2%	137	41.6%	138
Missing	13	54.2%	139	42.2%	152

Data is current as of 12/31/2014.

†Risk factor categories are not mutually exclusive.



## Technical Notes Hepatitis B Surveillance

Viral hepatitis surveillance in Colorado is primarily based on laboratory reporting. The Colorado Board of Health requires physicians and other health care providers to report suspected cases of hepatitis B virus (HBV) within 7 days, and it requires laboratories to report HBV serologic tests that are indicative of infection within 7 days. Upon receipt of these reports, either electronically, by fax, or via another reporting system, the Viral Hepatitis Program (VHP) uses established case definitions to assign a diagnosis and case status for each patient. Data is entered into the Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System where it is available to local or state public health personnel for further investigation of cases. If a variable is reported as missing, the information was not located by the disease investigators. If the variable is reported as unknown, then the investigator asked the question or located the information in a report and it was marked unknown. For example, a case investigator reviewed a medical record for a case and found a question related to race that was not marked. In that case, the variable was “missing”. If a person did not know whether or not their household contacts had hepatitis B, they would respond “don’t know” or “unknown”. Hepatitis B vaccination became a school entry requirement in 1997. At that time, the Colorado Board of Health required all day care students age fifteen months through four years of age, kindergarten and seventh grade students to have had three doses of hepatitis B vaccine to attend school. A 12-year old student entering seventh grade in 1997 would have been born in 1985 and be 27 years of age in 2012.

### Acute Hepatitis B

Acute hepatitis B is a short-term illness that occurs within the first six months of infection with HBV. Symptoms are usually mild to moderate, and include fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, jaundice and abnormal liver function tests. Older children and adults are more likely to develop symptoms than younger children. The hepatitis B IgM can be detected in sera and used as a marker of acute infection. CDPHE used case definitions published by the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) to define an acute case. These can be found at:

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/NNDSS/script/conditionsummary.aspx?CondID=80>

### Chronic Hepatitis B

Chronic hepatitis B results when HBV remains in the body after the acute phase of illness. People with a chronic infection do not develop protective antibodies to the hepatitis B surface antigen. Among those infected, 30-50% of younger children (aged 1-4 years), and up to 90% of infants will develop chronic hepatitis B.<sup>4</sup> Over time, chronic hepatitis B can result in liver disease, cirrhosis, or cancer. Each year approximately 3,000 people die from causes related to hepatitis B in the U.S.<sup>5</sup>

The surveillance case definition for chronic hepatitis B infection can be found at:

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/NNDSS/script/conditionsummary.aspx?CondID=81>

### Perinatal Hepatitis B Infection

Perinatal hepatitis B Infection is defined as HBsAg positivity in any infant aged >1-24 months who was born in the United States or in U.S. territories to an HBsAg-positive mother. The Viral Hepatitis Program at CDPHE follows all women 14-45 years of age to determine whether or not they are pregnant. If the woman is pregnant, she is enrolled in the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Case Management Program.

## **Hepatitis B Morbidity**

### **Surveillance Summary for Hepatitis B**

In 2013, a total of 26 cases of acute hepatitis B and 511 cases of chronic hepatitis B were reported in Colorado; 5 cases of acute hepatitis B and 53 cases of chronic hepatitis B were reported in El Paso County, Colorado. From 2008-2013, a total of 201 cases of acute hepatitis B and 3,178 cases of chronic hepatitis B were reported in Colorado; 24 cases of acute hepatitis B and 329 cases of chronic hepatitis B were reported in El Paso County, Colorado. Table 1 describes the distribution of reported cases by case status, gender, age, race/ethnicity, for 2013 and Table 2 describes the same variables for 2008-2013. Figure 1 displays the total number of cases, acute cases, and chronic cases of hepatitis B over the time period of 2008-2013 in El Paso County. Figure 2 displays the rate of total hepatitis B cases per 100,000 population in El Paso County. Rates per 100,000 were calculated using 2013-based estimates from the Demographer's Office, Colorado Department of Local Affairs.<sup>6</sup> Rates include acute and chronic case reports even though up to 10% of acute cases may also be included in the chronic cases. This occurs when an individual retests positive six months following the initial acute diagnosis, and the person is reported as a chronic case following the second test.

### **Gender**

In 2013, among the acute cases, 2 (40.0%) were reported in men and 3 (60.0%) in women (Table 2). For chronic infections, over half of the total 53 reported cases were among women (n=28; 52.8%), while 25 (47.2%) were reported in men. Surveillance cannot determine the number of men and women tested in Colorado. From 2008-2013, acute hepatitis B cases for women (n=13, 54.2%) outnumbered men (n=11, 45.8%) in El Paso County. The results were similar among chronic hepatitis B cases for women (n=176, 53.5%) and men (n=153, 46.5%). However, Colorado birth certificate data for 2013 reported that 96.1% (65,519) of women were screened for hepatitis B during pregnancy as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization practices of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Preventive Services Taskforce. There is no recommendation to routinely test men. Figure 3 displays the total number of cases of hepatitis B by gender during 2008-2013 in El Paso County.

### **Age**

Tables 1 and 2 and Figure 4 display the age distribution of acute and chronic hepatitis B cases in El Paso County. In 2013, most reported chronic infections occurred among persons 20-29 years of age (n=13; 24.5%) and 30-39 (n=13, 24.5%). For the time period of 2008-2013, most chronic infections were also in the 20-29 years old age group (n=69; 21.0%) and 30-39 age group (n=69, 21.0%). Persons older than 27 years of age are less likely to be immunized for hepatitis B based on a school-entry requirement that began in 1997. The higher incidence of acute infections in people over 27 suggests that individuals in these age groups continue to engage in high risk behavior and could benefit from vaccine. Chronic infections are more likely to be diagnosed later in the course of infection when symptoms commonly appear or among women screened during pregnancy.

### **Race/ethnicity**

In El Paso County in 2013, the majority of chronic cases of hepatitis B behind "Other" ethnicities (n=19, 35.8%) were reported among Asian/Pacific Islander (n=18; 34.0%). Similarly, from 2008-2013, the highest number of chronic HBV infections behind "Other" ethnicities (n=134, 40.7%) were reported among Asian/Pacific Islanders (n=113; 34.3%). Rates per 100,000 were calculated using the 2013 estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Data from Colorado's Perinatal Hepatitis B Unit indicate that foreign-born pregnant women are significantly more likely to be reported with hepatitis B infection than pregnant women born in the U.S. National data also describes significant

disparities in chronic hepatitis B infections by race.<sup>7</sup> Figure 5 illustrates the disproportionate hepatitis B disparity among the Asian/Pacific Islander population in El Paso County from 2008-2013. Other ethnic groups that shared the burden in El Paso County include White non-Hispanic (n=52, 15.8%), Black non-Hispanic (n=15, 4.6%), and Hispanic (n=13, 4.0%).

### Risk Factors

A subset of risk factor data is included in Tables 3 and 4. These data include: injection drug use (IDU), household contact of known or suspected case, sex contact of known or expected case, men who have sex with men (MSM), and born in an endemic country. These data were obtained through patient interviews, medical record reviews, or from information provided by a physician, hospital, or other healthcare provider. The VHP collected risk factor information on 19 (73.1%) acute HBV cases and 335 (73.1%) chronic HBV cases.

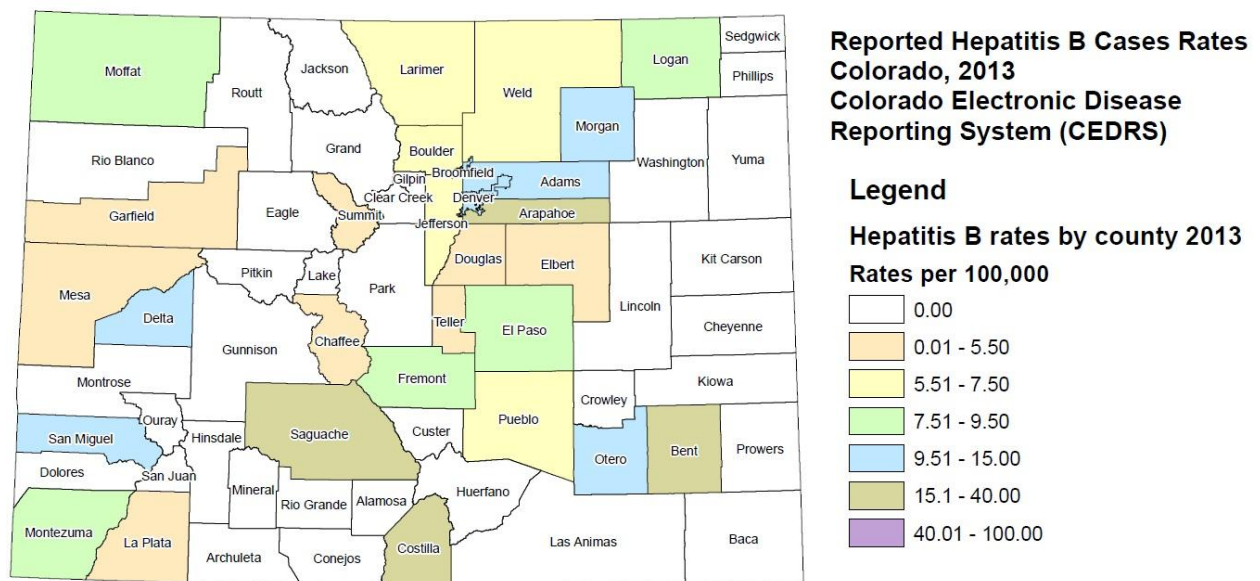


Figure 6. This is a map describing the rate distribution of hepatitis B per 100,000 county populations in Colorado. The rate is calculated using the estimated 2013 census figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.<sup>8</sup>

## References

<sup>1</sup> Population figures for 2000-2013 are 2013-based estimates from the Demographer's Office, Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

<sup>2</sup> U.S Census Bureau, State and County Quick Facts-El Paso County, Colorado 2013  
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/08/08041.html>

<sup>3</sup> El Paso County, Colorado Consolidated Plan 2012-2016: A Five Year Housing and Community Development Strategy. Prepared by El Paso County, Budget and Economic Development Department  
<http://adm.elpasoco.com/BudgetAdministration/EconomicDevelopment/CDBG/Documents/2012-2016%20CP%20DRAFT.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> World Health Organization. (July 2012). Hepatitis B: Fact Sheet No. 204. Retrieved from  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs204/en/>

<sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). Disease Burden from Viral Hepatitis A, B, and C in the United States.  
Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/pdfs/disease\\_burden.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/pdfs/disease_burden.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> US Census Bureau, Population Division. (June 2013). Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States and States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012. Retrieved from  
<http://www.census.gov/popest/data/index.html>.

<sup>7</sup> McQuillan, G.M, Kruszon-Moran, D, Denniston, M.M, & Hirsch, R. (March 2010). Viral Hepatitis. NCHS Data Brief 27. Retrieved from  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db27.htm>.

<sup>8</sup> US Census Bureau, Population Division. (June 2014). Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/index.html>.